

U.S. Serial No.: 09/811,248

Supplemental Amendment dated November 12, 2006

**Claim Amendments:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-55 (canceled)

Claim 56 (currently amended): A hydrogel foam formed by polymerization of at least one ethylenically-unsaturated monomer and a multi-olefinic crosslinking agent in the presence of [[a]] an inorganic carbonate blowing agent under foaming conditions effective to produce a porous polymer network, which network has an average pore size of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 57 (previously presented): The hydrogel foam of claim 56, wherein the ratio of multi-olefinic crosslinking agent to ethylenically unsaturated monomer is in the range of 0.01:100 to 10:100.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The hydrogel foam of claim 56, wherein the at least one ethylenically-unsaturated monomer is selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid, salts of (meth)acrylic acid, esters of (meth)acrylic acid, salts and acids of esters of (meth)acrylic acid, amides of (meth)acrylic

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acid, N-alkyl amides of (meth)acrylic acid, salts and acids of N-alkyl amides of (meth)acrylic acid, N-vinyl pyrrolidinone, acrylamide, acrylamide derivatives, methacrylamide, methacrylamide derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The hydrogel foam of claim 56, wherein the at least one ethylenically-unsaturated monomer is selected from the group consisting of acrylamide (AM), N-isopropylacrylamide (NIPAM), 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate (HPMA), N-vinyl pyrrolidinone (VP), acrylic acid (AA), 2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic acid (AMPS), 3-sulfopropyl acrylate potassium salt (SPAK), 2-(acryloyloxy)ethyltrimethyl-ammonium methyl sulfate (ATMS), inorganic salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The hydrogel foam of claim 56, wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide, ethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, piperazine diacrylamide, glutaraldehyde, epichlorohydrin, crosslinking agents containing 1,2-diol structures, crosslinking agents containing functionalized peptides, and crosslinking agents containing proteins.

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Claim 61 (previously presented): The hydrogel foam of claim 56, which has a swelling ratio in the range of 2 to 1,000.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The hydrogel foam of claim 56, which has a compression modulus in the range of 0.01 to 5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The hydrogel foam of claim 56, which has a swelling time in the range of 10 seconds to 10 hours for a sample having a size in the range of 0.01 cm<sup>3</sup> and larger.

Claim 64 (withdrawn): A method for treating a disease or disorder in a human or animal patient, said method comprising introducing onto or into the body of said patient a quantity of a hydrogel material comprising a crosslinked polymer, which hydrogel material has an average pore size of 10 μm to 3000 μm.

Claim 65 (withdrawn): The method of claim 64, wherein said hydrogel material further comprises particles of a disintegrant disposed within said crosslinked polymer.

Claim 66 (withdrawn): The method of claim 65, wherein said disintegrant is at least one of (i) a crosslinked natural or synthetic polyelectrolyte, (ii) a crosslinked neutral

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hydrophilic polymer, (iii) a non-crosslinked natural or synthetic polyelectrolyte having a particulate shape, (iv) a non-crosslinked neutral hydrophilic polymer having a particulate shape, or (v) a porous inorganic material that provides wicking by capillary forces.

Claim 67 (withdrawn): The method of claim 64, wherein said hydrogel material further comprises an effective amount of a therapeutic agent.

Claim 68 (withdrawn): The method of claim 64, wherein said hydrogel material is introduced into a bleeding site to thereby control bleeding.

Claim 69 (withdrawn): The method of claim 64, wherein said hydrogel material is introduced into the stomach to thereby control appetite.

Claim 70 (withdrawn): The method of claim 64, wherein the hydrogel material forms at least a portion of an artificial body part that is introduced into the body, said artificial body part being selected from the group consisting of artificial pancreas,

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artificial cornea, artificial skin, and artificial articular cartilage.

Claim 71 (withdrawn): The method of claim 64, wherein the hydrogel material is introduced into a sub-mammary incision to thereby afford breast augmentation.

Claim 72 (withdrawn): The method of claim 64, wherein the hydrogel material is introduced into or onto the body as a tissue engineering substrate.

Claim 73 (withdrawn): The method of claim 64, wherein the hydrogel material is applied to a burn site as part of a burn dressing.